

## CLAIMS

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ART 34 AMDT

1. Use of rubber latex in combination with starch.
2. Rubber latex as claimed in claim 1 comprising an amount of starch, which rubber latex has a reduced allergen activity as compared to the same rubber latex without starch.
- 5 3. Rubber latex according to claim 2 **characterized in that** the rubber latex comprises an amount of starch for reducing the allergen activity of latex such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 50%, preferably maximally 40%, more  
10 preferably maximally 30%, most preferably maximally 25% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.
4. Rubber latex according to claim 2 or 3 **characterized in that** the rubber latex comprises an  
15 amount of starch for reducing the allergen activity of latex such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 20%, preferably maximally 15%, more preferably maximally 10%, most preferably maximally 5% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as  
20 measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.
5. Rubber latex according to claim 2, 3 or 4 **characterized in that** the starch is a modified starch.
6. Rubber latex according to claim 5 **characterized in that** the modified starch is obtainable  
25 by gelatinising the starch in an extruder and subsequently crosslinking the starch with glyoxal.
7. Rubber latex according to any of the claims 2-6 **characterized in that** the starch is potato starch, Tapioca, waxy corn starch or waxy rice starch.
- 30 8. Method for reducing the allergen activity of rubber latex comprising incorporating an amount of starch in the rubber latex.
9. Method according to claim 8 **characterized in that** the amount of starch that is incorporated in the

rubber latex is such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 50%, preferably maximally 40%, more preferably maximally 30%, most preferably maximally 25% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.

10. Method according to claim 8 or 9 characterized in that the amount of starch that is incorporated in the rubber latex is such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 20%, preferably maximally 15%, more preferably maximally 10%, most preferably maximally 5% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.

11. Method according to claim 8, 9 or 10 characterized in that the starch is a modified starch.

12. Method according to claim 11 characterized in that the modified starch is obtainable by gelatinising the starch in an extruder and subsequently crosslinking the starch with glyoxal.

13. Method according to any of the claim 8-12 characterized in that the starch is potato starch, Tapioca, waxy corn starch or waxy rice starch.

14. Rubber latex article comprising rubber latex according to claims 2-7, wherein at least the surface contacting the skin of the user is fabricated from the said rubber latex.

15. Rubber latex article according to claim 14 characterized in that the article is a surgical glove.

16. Rubber latex article according to claim 14 characterized in that the article is a condom.

17. Rubber latex article according to claim 14 characterized in that the article is an inflatable balloon.

18. Use of starch for reducing the allergen activity of rubber latex.

19. Use according to claim 18 characterized in that the starch is a modified starch.

20. Use according to claim 19 **characterized in that** the modified starch is obtainable by gelatinising the starch in an extruder and subsequently crosslinking the starch with glyoxal.

5           21. Use according to any of the claims 18, 19 or 20 **characterized in that** the starch is potato starch, Tapioca, waxy corn starch or waxy rice starch.

22. Use of rubber latex according to any of the claims 2-7 for the manufacture of rubber latex articles.

10           23. Use of starch as claimed in claim 1 as donning powder for surgical gloves.

24. Use as claimed in claim 23 **characterized in that** the starch is a modified starch.

15           25. Use according to claim 24 **characterized in that** the modified starch is a granular, low crystalline, preferably non-crystalline, starch.

26. Use according to claim 25 **characterized in that** the low-crystalline starch has a V-type crystal structure.

20           27. Use according to claim 24, 25 or 26 **characterized in that** the birefringence of the modified starch is less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 10%, and most preferably less than 5% of native starch.

25           28. Use according to any of the preceding claims 23-27 **characterized in that** less than 75% of the modified starch is soluble in cold water.

29. Use according to any of the preceding claims 23-28 **characterized in that** the modified starch is  
30 modified potato starch, modified corn starch, modified rice starch, or modified waxy corn starch.

30. Surgical glove provided with modified starch as a donning powder at least on the surface of the glove to be contacting the skin of the user.

35           31. Surgical glove according to claim 30 **characterized in that** the modified starch is a granular, low crystalline, preferably non-crystalline, starch.

32. Surgical glove according to claim 31

characterized in that the low-cristalline starch has a V-type crystal structure.

33. Surgical glove according to claim 31, 31 or 32 characterized in that the birefringence of the modified starch is less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 10%, and most preferably less than 5% of native starch.

34. Surgical glove according to any of the claims 30-33 characterized in that less than 75% of the modified starch is soluble in cold water.

35. Surgical glove according to any of the preceding claims 30-34 characterized in that the modified starch is preferably modified potato starch, modified corn starch, modified rice starch, or modified waxy corn starch.